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Agenda items 33, 35 and 85
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST
QUESTION OF PALESTINE
REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE ISRAELI PRACTICES AFFECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND OTHER ARABS OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-second year

Letter dated 10 March 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Guyana to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit a copy of the statement issued by the Government of Guyana on 7 March 1997 in response to the announcement by the Government of Israel on 26 February 1997 that another housing settlement would be established in East Jerusalem.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and the attached statement circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda items 33, 35 and 85 and of the Security Council.

(Signed) S. R. INSANALLY
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF GUYANA ON 7 MARCH 1997

The Government of Guyana is concerned by the disquiet in the Middle East owing to the decision by the Government of Israel on 26 February 1997 to establish another housing settlement in East Jerusalem. Such inflammatory acts which violate resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council and repudiate the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people cannot be condoned.

The imminent talks on the final status of Jerusalem should not be undermined by an atmosphere of distrust. These talks offer another opportunity to advance the peace process which has been started with the cooperation of the parties. All issues should be resolved through dialogue and full commitment to the peace accords that were signed after painstaking negotiations.

We reiterate our call for peace in the Middle East and we urge the Government of Israel and the Palestinian Authority to work together for its early achievement.